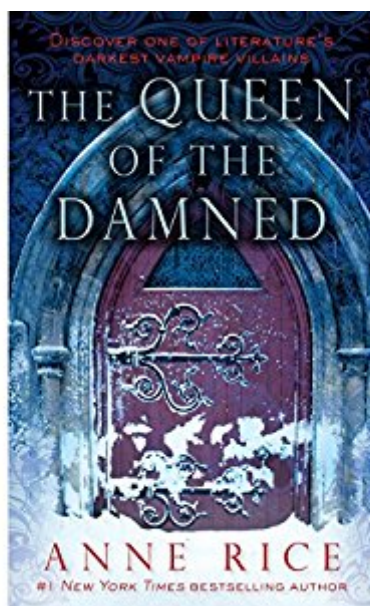


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The Queen Of The Damned: The Vampire Chronicles, Book 3



Synopsis

In a feat of virtuoso storytelling, Anne Rice unleashes Akasha, the queen of the damned, who has risen from a 6,000-year sleep to let loose the powers of the night. Akasha has a marvelously devious plan to "save" mankind and destroy the vampire Lestat in this extraordinarily sensual novel of the complex, erotic, electrifying world of the undead.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A book I enjoyed a lot, despite some descriptions too long and detailed to hold the reader tightly. (But even those may be a pleasure to mostly female readers, if the sex stereotypes about reading are valid: careful descriptions of countenances insisting on declared emotions and on the demonstration of tenderness between lovers -and all of a special interest, if we keep in mind that the persons involved are vampires!) Apart from that, the book is a rich and well-woven work, managing not only to present an independent whole species and genealogy, in other words a special, well defined fictional world (which to my opinion is one of the main -and difficult-to-obtain -features of good literature), but also to give a resourceful explanation for its birth and development, as long as to connect it with the most significant issues of human religion, history, and controversy of ideas through centuries. It has also a very strong feministic look which I would expect at least to be referred to in the book's presentations-it's not a spoiler. The most significant idea of the book though, which is in the core of the main action -the desire of the Queen to rule the humanity as a goddess in her own way and with her own ideas and prejudices- is the very strong, philosophically supported

mainly by Hannah Arendt, idea that the evil is s i m p l e and stupid! This is what the whole primary story of the book is moving to, and is shown not only in the arrogant, stubborn, ridiculously narrow-minded character of the Queen (an amazing anticlimax to her unique supernatural powers), but also in the triumph of Lestat over human masses as a rock idol! The part of the book which to my choice is the most valuable extract (about page 300 I think) is the scene in which the twins encounter the Queen for the very first time, and one of them (in her narrating that encounter some millenniums after) gives a deep, explicit and psychologically reasonable interpretation of the Queen's character, revealing her inner l i e, which comes from her need to deal with her nothingness and is well-established by her own sincere belief in it! This selfish stupidity of her is further enlightened in the (relatively) last pages, where she protests in tears that "no one stands by her" or "everyone is against her", or something like that, marvelously reminding us of some very human -and very disastrous- type of person! It is a pity that books like that are mostly read (or at least so I think) by people just obsessed with vampire stories and often only superficially following the plot. I think Ann Rice is of the authors who use the vampire tradition to seriously talk about deep human thoughts, instincts and feelings, as well as of moral and social issues still crucial (or even especially crucial) in our years. It is the kind of literature that forms a bridge between "difficult" or `upper" art and the "mainstream" one, and this, in terms of education involving pleasure, is worth a lot.

I first read this book 25 years ago in 1990. I read it immediately after "The Vampire Lestat" but before "Interview With The Vampire" - it seemed a logical expansion of the mythos of the Chronicles, with the "Creation Myth" of the vampires told from their own perspective. Brilliantly and gorgeously told. Very much recommended. The movie of the same name was a huge disappointment by comparison.

Has been my favorite author since Jr High, and I have always been quite the bibliophile (now in my 30s). I have my 7th grade daughter reading these books now. They are transforming, rich, educational, and complex. I have more respect for Anne Rice than any other fiction writer rivaled only by Daniel Quinn, possibly. Her characters and dialogues are so well written that I would easily believe that she listened to these conversations as they happened. Vampires that were "created" 6,000 years ago to today from locations all over the world provides readers with tantalizing glimpses into histories and cultures that must have cost Rice quite a bit of research to deliver. Romantic and dark, her books find the spark of poetry in the most Stoic of souls--- as poetic as that may sound, I

am known for being fairly Stoic.

Such a great end to the trilogy; I know that there are many more books but I feel as though the three can easily stand alone. Lester is such an interesting, arresting narrator. The characters are all so incredibly well developed; and they stay true to character throughout- their reactions, thoughts, etc. become as those of friends and loved ones. Who doesn't want to know Lestat (and the others) after reading this book? A wonderful delve into another world

works grate ty so sorry for trouble seem there was never any problem ty

My personal pick for Anne Rice's masterpiece of multiple pov narrative...Lestat

Great book and gives the story more depth.

Checkout The Vampire Lestat before taking on this book. Queen is a fantastic read for those into metaphysical deep sea diving, with just a bit too much oxygen in the air hose. I love Anne Rice; she drills down through so many ideas that never occur to most of us (certainly not me.) I feel both dumber and smarter after reading her. Even though she released QotD in 1988, the topic of female subjugation has only become more relevant. Look at the valiant struggles of Islam's daughters for emancipation. I like the Mother Queen Akasha's solution. It's unique and it works. After The Queen of the Damned you're ready for Memnoch the Devil. Whew, baby! Anne Rice really is the Queen. Sorry, Countess Stephanie. Marty DeLand

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